(c) There is no proposal in the Ministry of Tourism to accord industry status to the tourism sector. The data on revenue earned by Government through service tax in tourism sector is not maintained separately by Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

Task Force to promote Health Tourism

3533. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry, along with the Ministry of Health or Family Welfare, set up a Task Force to promote health tourism in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Task Force submitted its recommendations to Government; and

(c) what action plan does his Ministry has to promote and publicise health tourism through its India tourism offices located in various parts of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism along with Ministry of Family Welfare have set up a Task Force with a view to promoting India as a Health Destination for persons across the world so as to gainfully utilize the health-care expertise and infrastructure available in the country. It has been decided to promote India aggressively as a Health Destination in close coordination and collaboration with the public sector tour operators.

(c) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has published a brochure and CD-Rom titled "Body, Mind and Soul" giving information on ancient and proven healing techniques like Ayurveda, Yoga, Panchkarma, Rejuvenation, etc. in various States of India. This publicity material on the traditional and natural medicines is being distributed by India tourism Offices in India and overseas to promote Health Tourism.

Potential of Cruise Tourism

3534. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great potential for cruise tourism in the country;